Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Sexual assault affects every person in South Dakota either as a victim/survivor of sexual assault or as a family member, significant other, friend, neighbor, or co-worker; and,

Whereas, In 2008, a new slogan is being promoted to help communities recognize that sexual violence IS preventable: "Preventing Sexual Violence in our Workplaces"; and,

Whereas, Many citizens of our great state are working to provide quality services and assistance to sexual assault survivors through staffing 24-hour hotlines; responding to emergency calls; and offering support, comfort, and advocacy during the initial reports to law enforcement, medical exams, and criminal justice proceedings; and,

Whereas, Volunteers, paid professionals, and community allies are working tirelessly to promote sexual assault awareness by offering educational programs to schools, churches, and civic organizations, as well as professional training to medical, mental health, law enforcement, education, and criminal justice personnel regarding sexual assault issues; and,

Whereas, Numerous domestic and sexual assault programs and other advocates of non-violence have joined together to support each other in their work and to provide the citizens of local communities and the state of South Dakota with a central source of information on sexual assault; and,

Whereas, During the month of April, efforts will be intensified to promote public understanding of sexual violence and to increase sensitivity to victims emphasizing the need for citizen involvement in efforts to reduce sexual assault through public education and changing public attitudes; and,

Whereas, Local victim service agencies throughout the state will be promoting their services to increase community support for their agencies and increase awareness of the healing potential for survivors:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2008 as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State